current financial year for the promotion of tourism in Maharashtra;

(b) whether the tourism industry in Maharashtra has registered a large scale progress during the last two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of foreign tourists who visited the different tourist places in Maharashtra during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) The Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Government officials of Maharashtra have identified 6 projects at an estimated cost of Rs.196 lakhs for Central Financial Assistance. These projects are :-

(1) Aurangabad Holiday Resort, Aurangabad

(2) Pilgrim for Shirdi

(3) Konkani Hits at Harihareshwar and Ganapatipule

(4) Tourist Complex at Kunkeshwar, Tourist Complex-cum-Crafts Centre at Pinguli

(5) Tourist Complex-cum-water sports complex at Lake Dhampur

(b) and (c) To give impetus to the Tourism industry in Maharashtra, the State Government is providing incentives-concessions to encourage Private Investment on a large scale. So far the State Government has received 55 proposals for private investment amounting to Rs.102 crores.

(d) 8,81,351 foreign tourists visited various places in Maharashtra during the year 1995.

Production/Export of Mica

265. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state

(a) the production of mica in the country during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 till date, state-wise;

(b) the percentage of the above production exported during each of the last three years; and

(c) the countries to which it has been exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) As per the information available, State-wise production of Mica during 1994-995, 1995-96 and April'96 to Aug.'96 is given below :-

(Qty. in Tonnes)

States	1994-95		1995-96		April'96 to August, 96	
	Crude	Waste & Scarp	Crude	Waste & Scarp	Crude	Waste & Scrap
India	1988	1465	1761	1198	815	611
Andhara Pradesh	783	558	756	359	343	215
Bihar	1138	401	956	318	445	202
Rajasthan	67	506	49	521	27	194

(b) Production reported is of Mica (Crude and Waste & Scarp while that of export consist of unmanufactured and worked Mica i.e. Blocks, Splittings, Condenser Films, Waste & Scrap, Plates Cuts, Washers & Discs, Miacanite and other Built up Mica. Apart from these items large quantities of Mica powder are also exported which constitute 80-85% of the total Mica Export.

(c) Mica is being exported mainly to countries like United States of America, Japan, United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, France, Belgium, Italy, China, Korea, Singapore, Spain, Hong Kong, Norway, Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, etc. The foreign exchange earned during 1994-95, 1995-96 and April;96 to August, 96 has been reported to the tune of Rs.38.7 Crores, Rs.44.0 Crores, and Rs.8.5 Crores respectively.

Growth in Tourism Industry

266. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the current year is witnessing any growth in the tourism industry of the country; and

(b) if so, the percentage of growth achieved so far in comparison to the last year?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) Yes, Sir.